

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY TEXT RECEIVED FROM WHITE HOUSE;EUR/E

APPROVED BY EUR - MR. ARMITAGE

C - MR. SHINN

S/S :RKUCHEL

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O 072317Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 106917

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEW, YO, US

SUBJECT:FORD-TITO MESSAGE ON OCCASION OF CELEBRATION OF
30TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO
PRESIDENT TITO ON OCCASION OF YUGOSLAVIA'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION OF ALLIED VICTORY IN WORLD WAR II:

BEGIN TEXT: MAY 7, 1975

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

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ON THE OCCASION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALLIED VICTORY IN WORLD WAR II, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE MARK WITH DEEPEST RESPECT THE WARTIME CONTRIBUTIONS AND SACRIFICES OF YUGOSLAVIA. WE RECALL WITH SPECIAL GRATITUDE THAT DURING THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE COMMON FOE, YUGOSLAV CIVILIANS AND SOLDIERS ALIKE RISKED THEIR LIVES TO SAVE CREWS OF AMERICAN PLANES DOWNED IN YUGOSLAVIA.

OUR TWO COUNTRIES EXPERIENCED THE AGONIES OF WAR AS ALLIES.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF OUR WARTIME COOPERATION IS A TIMELY
REMINDER OF THE NEED TO CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TOWARD THE
GOAL OF A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD WHICH WE SHARE.

IN THIS SPIRIT, THE UNITED STATES IS PLEASED TO SEND A
DELEGATION TO YUGOSLAVIA'S COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATION OF
THE ALLIED VICTORY. TWO DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS, JOHN A.
BLATNIK AND MAJOR GENERAL CLAY T. BUCKINGHAM WILL
REPRESENT THE UNITED STATES.

I AM CERTAIN THAT THESE COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONIES WILL
CONTRIBUTE FURTHER TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MUTUAL UNDER-
STANDING BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

SINCERELY,

GERALD R. FORD

HIS EXCELLENCY
MARSHAL JOSIP BROZ TITO
PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIALIST
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA
BELGRADE. END TEXT.

2. APPROPRIATELY TYPED TEXT OF MESSAGE SHOULD BE HANDED
TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN BLATNIK FOR PRESENTATION TO
PRESIDENT TITO OR RANKING YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL WHO RECEIVES
BLATNIK MAY 9.

3. WHITE HOUSE AND DEPARTMENT DO NOT REPEAT NOT PLAN TO
RELEASE THIS MESSAGE BUT HAVE NO OBJECTION SHOULD GOY
DESIRE TO DO SO.

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